

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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March 11, 1950

AUSTRIAN TREATY AGAIN POSTPONED. Deputies of the Big Four Foreign Ministers met again in London on March 1 in another attempt to break the Austrian treaty deadlock. After an hour's meeting they adjourned until April 26. It was their 251st meeting.

Soviet Deputy Georgi N. Zarubin again declared that he could not discuss any of the treaty's five remaining unagreed articles until Soviet-Austrian negotiations on post-liberation debts (Art. 48b of the treaty draft) had been completed. He gave no indication how the three-month-old talks were progressing and declined to estimate when they might be concluded.

FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. On February 22, Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber told the Budget Committee of the Austrian House of Representatives that the accusation according to which Austria's own attitude was responsible for the delay in reaching agreement on the State Treaty was wholly untenable and could not be advanced as a pretext. In his exhaustive report, Dr. Gruber stated that the treaty negotiations had now come to a standstill because the Soviet Union had so far failed to react to Austrian proposals for settlement of Article 48b. The Russians were claiming that they needed more time for their experts to study these proposals, although they were prepared to continue negotiating. In any case, Article 48b contains nothing which can not be settled in a few days. It is within the power of the Soviet Union today to assure prompt completion of the treaty by reaching agreement on Article 48b. From the Western point of view, nothing further remains which could possibly delay signing of the treaty.

Dr. Gruber went on to refute the opinion current in certain circles that Austria wanted a treaty at any price. He said that it had always been the aim of the Government, in accordance with the decisions of Parliament, to achieve a State Treaty, but certainly not one based on political concessions. If Austria wanted to obtain a treaty at the cost of political sacrifices, she would have to grant the right of option to the East. There was, however, no intention, now or at any time in the past, to do so. "We have always declared that certain economic sacrifices would be justified, but we have never striven for a treaty at any price. The reason the treaty negotiations have lasted for three years may also be found in the fact that we have always rejected, with utmost firmness, any demands which we thought would mortgage our future by the imposition of unbearable terms. The State Treaty", Dr. Gruber said, "continues to remain the core of the Government's overall policy. The decisive factor in all this is that the Austrian Government, in accordance with the Austrian Constitution and pursuant to its sworn obligations, must follow a policy intended for all of Austria, and not one designed only for certain zones or certain groups of the country. Such a policy does not exclude striving for a maximum of improvement in one of these zones. The Government's policy is constantly directed toward the achievement of progress in this matter. But we must realize that the foundation for a genuine solution of the Austrian problem can exist only if the hard-working population in the eastern provinces of our country will have the benefit of equal improvements.

"The basic problem of our situation derives from the fact that two divergent ideologies - two different philosophies of life - exercise occupation rights on Austrian soil. This antithesis will resolve itself only on the day when the principle that force can be used as a means of international politics will have been discredited by developments themselves, for Austria is not only legally, but morally, entitled to demand that her national territory be evacuated. Anyone opposing this right places himself outside the pale of international law." Dr. Gruber further stated that the attitude on the part of some that right without might is meaningless was a false and short-sighted one. Even great powers could suffer very serious damage if confidence in their integrity were lost. Never and nowhere had the

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consequences of such a policy failed to materialize. This also justified the hope that in the course of future developments, at a time when international tension will have ended and principles of law re-established, this State Treaty would be signed. Even a great power could not afford to compromise its policy and disregard the legal rights of a small country.

Dr. Gruber then turned to the subject of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, stating that although Austria was not a member of the European Union she had been a party to extensive consultations of the O.E.E.C. in Paris. The question of whether Austria should have participated in the Strasbourg meetings of the Council of Europe had to be considered in the light of the general situation; it was up to the Austrian Parliament to reach a decision in the matter. The Federal Government could not act alone in so important a question.

In the debate which followed the Foreign Minister's speech, Deputy Alfred Migsch, spokesman for the Socialist Party, declared that Austria's foreign policy had but a single objective: to impress upon the world the unshakeable and inexorable will of the Austrian people to obtain a treaty. "During the past year we have never poured oil on the fire of international disagreements," Dr. Migsch continued. "Austria's policy was always based on strict neutrality."

Deputy Eduard Ludwig of the People's Party characterized the State Treaty as a typical treaty of coercion in the light of international law, one which attempted to wring the utmost from a country so severely affected by the hardships of war. It should not be forgotten, however, that the affiliation of Austria with Western culture was the only firm foundation upon which continued and sound future progress could be based, he said.

AUSTRIA ASKS TROOP CUTS. The Austrian Government addressed identical notes to the United States, British, French and Russian Governments requesting a reduction in occupation forces, a general lightening of the occupation burden and restoration of the maximum possible degree of sovereignty and administrative freedom pending conclusion of a State Treaty. The notes were dated March 7, 1950.

AUSTRIAN STATESMEN REPLY TO GENERAL DONOVAN'S LETTER ASKING EUROPEAN UNITY. Austrian statesmen and government leaders joined those of fourteen Western European countries in endorsing closer economic and cultural relations between the nations of Europe, in reply to a letter addressed to them by Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan, chairman of the American Committee on United Europe, in which he requested the political leaders to outline their position and offer practical suggestions on the question of European unity.

In his reply which was made public on February 20, Austria's Chancellor Leopold Figl stated that the spirit of European solidarity was no mere utopia, although a shallow and irresponsible optimism would be out of place. Much had already been achieved, although many difficulties still remained to be solved. Of primary importance was the necessity to convince North American public opinion that a unified European organism could be created only through slow and painstaking efforts and that the European mentality, bred over a period of centuries, could not be changed overnight. Decisive was rather the fact that the will to establish a new order along the lines of European unity had now become apparent.

But this will, Dr. Figl went on to say, would prove the more effective, the more vigorous the impact by the economic and moral strength of the North American Union upon the shaping of European unity would be. It would, therefore, be very regrettable indeed, not to say dangerous, if any misgivings were to arise in the United States with regard to European reconstruction and lead to a decrease in volume or intensity of the aid program initiated and maintained with so much enthusiasm and political foresight. Any such measures would seriously impede the endeavors being made towards unification and would impair the economic and political foundations of a free and democratic Europe. A perceptible reduction of American aid would again bear out the historically confirmed fact that any inconsistency or half measure in carrying out an adopted plan is worse than no plan at all. The political realism of the American people and their responsible representatives would undoubtedly save Europe from having its economic recovery and unification, started under such promising auspices, checked by a mistake of this kind.

The Austrian Chancellor further stated that Austria today was not

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only particularly convincing proof of the social stabilization produced by the aid received, but also of the fact that any aid so generously given strengthened the consciousness of international solidarity. "In the future too," Dr. Figl concluded, "Austria will be willing, with all her economic power and cultural strength, to work for the realization of a United Europe, to refrain from jeopardizing by separatist policies the progress already made and to achieve final success in unison with the other nations of Europe."

In his reply, Deputy Eduard Ludwig, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Austrian Parliament, also stressed the great importance of European Union to Austria. Former Secretary of State Dr. Julius Deutsch, replying in the name of the Austrian Socialist Party, said that it was naturally in the interest of the real and deeper sense of the idea of European unity that one part of Europe refrain from organizing against the other; this should not, however, lead us to disregard the need of the hour. But the final aim must remain the unification of all of Europe.

Prof. Hans Hoff, director of Vienna's Neurology Clinic, stated that Austria could escape the threatening danger of being overrun from the East only if it became a part of the greater unit of a unified Europe.

DEADLINE FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS EXTENDED. The Austrian Council of Ministers on February 21 approved a draft bill extending until June 30, 1950, the deadline for filing restitution claims in accordance with the first, second and third Restitution Laws. On November 17, 1949, the deadline for claims filed under the fourth Restitution Law had already been extended to December 31, 1950.

COST ESTIMATES MUST NOW ACCOMPANY ALL PROPOSED AUSTRIAN LEGISLATION. On February 7, the Austrian Council of Ministers decreed that all future drafts and proposals for new legislation or new government regulations must be accompanied by a cost estimate from the department or agency drawing up the proposals. These cost estimates will have to include an estimate of the increased administrative cost the proposed legislation will involve, and must present sound justification for such increases in federal expenditures. The ministerial decision, which was well received in Austrian political circles, is intended as a preventive measure against unnecessary federal expenses.

1950 BUDGET SUBMITTED TO AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. On February 15, Dr. Eugen Margaretha, Austrian Minister of Finance, submitted to Parliament the Federal Government's proposed budget for the year 1950, to go into effect after expiration of the four-month interim budget adopted in December 1949. The new budget proposal is based on expected current revenues of 9,617,200,000 schillings and expenditures of 9,617,100,000 schillings. It further calls for an allocation of 1,078,200,000 schillings for investments. The total expected deficit will therefore amount to 1,078,100,000 schillings.

In his budget message, Dr. Margaretha stated that an increase in the gasoline tax, raising the retail cost of gasoline by 40 groschen (1.88 schillings per liter), was necessary in order to continue urgent construction work on the federal highway system. Moreover, the government would soon have to re-evaluate customs tariffs. In 1927 Austrian revenue from customs duties had amounted to 208 million schillings; in 1949, however, despite a 400 to 500% rise in prices, the state had derived only 143 million schillings from this source. The Minister of Finance further declared that present legislation authorizing the government to raise funds to cover occupation costs would have to be maintained. Under this legislation, 529 million schillings had been obtained through taxes last year to defray these costs.

Under the provisions of the proposed budget, one fifth, or 3.9 billion schillings, of all expenditures would be used to pay federal salaries; the federal payroll for 1950 was set at 265,000 workers and employees, although the government's administrative reform calls for a reduction of at least 40,000 federal employees next year. Only after such a reduction would it be possible to consider pay increases for those federal employees now receiving salaries admittedly below average. A 5% reduction in the number of civil service employees had already been imposed by the government in 1950.

In the general debate that followed, the government parties (People's Party and Socialists) supported the proposed budget. Only

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the Leftist Bloc vociferously opposed the budgetary provisions with a volley of verbal fireworks. During the stormy session Deputy Prinke of the People's Party, in reply to a remark by Deputy Fischer of the Communist Party, said that thinking along the lines of Cominform ideology made one not only blind, but also dishonorable and a traitor to one's own people.

The proposed budget was finally turned over to the Budget Committee for special debate, which is expected to last several weeks.

AUSTRIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY FACES SERIOUS PROBLEMS. Dr. Franz Josef Mayer-Gunthof, President of the Austrian Textile Industry Association, recently declared that in 1949 Austria's textile industry, as most of her other industries, was able to increase its production considerably, although the volume of textile exports did not reach expected levels. Nevertheless, as a result of price increases, higher wages, saturation of the world market and, presumably, insufficient imports of dyes under the Marshall Plan, the Austrian textile industry will be faced with serious problems in 1950.

In 1947 total production of textile articles amounted to approximately 27,000 tons; in 1948, a 70% increase brought the yearly figure up to 45,500 tons, and in 1949, a 40% increase resulted in a yearly output of 64,000 tons. These increases in production were made possible primarily by the aid received under the ERP program. During the first Marshall Plan year nearly 30 million dollars' worth of raw materials, yarns and dyes were furnished to the industry. These ERP supplies covered 40% and 25% of all raw material requirements of cotton and wool respectively. The supply of rayon was much less favorable, because only 6% of national requirements were covered by ERP imports. The staple fibre industry at Lenzing, Upper Austria, which reached a record production of 45 tons per day, was the only domestic source of textile raw materials to increase its output.

The Austrian textile industry had always been very export-minded, Dr. Mayer-Gunthof said. Before the war, textile exports, mostly yarns and high quality finished goods, represented 210 million schillings per year, or 20% of all exports. In 1948 the total export volume amounted to 2 billion schillings, of which textile exports represented 290 million schillings, or 14%. In 1949 there was an even greater decline in overall exports, because textile exports amounted to only 200 million schillings, or 7% of the total.

AUSTRIA EXPORTED 10 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF GOODS TO U.S. IN 1949. According to the consular invoices filed with the American Legation in Vienna, Austrian exports during the year 1949 amounted to \$9,740,000 (\$8,906,000 in 1948). Seventy-six percent of these Austrian exports to the United States consisted of \$5,998,000 worth of imitation precious stones and \$1,447,000 worth of woolen manufactured goods.

EXPORT OF AUSTRIAN PAPER INDUSTRY AMOUNTED TO 400 MILLION SCHILLINGS IN 1949. Austrian exports of paper, cardboard and paper products in 1949 amounted to 395,634,000 schillings and represented 13.5% of the total export volume for the year. The 1949 figure reflects a 55% increase over 1948 exports of paper and paper products. The Austrian trade publication "Oesterreichische Papierrundschau" declares that the industry should devote more attention to the domestic market since increasing Scandinavian competition is expected to tighten the international market.

Production figures for the year 1949 include 224,000 tons of paper, 51,600 tons of cardboard and 284,000 tons of paper products. These figures are all the more impressive considering the fact that two-thirds of the 64 paper machines in use at the present time are completely outdated and in bad need of overhauling. Modernization of these machines with ERP aid is almost impossible because 80% of these Austrian machines are of German origin and American spare parts are unusable. The industry plans to allocate 60 million schillings during the next 5 years - that is 6% of expected annual profits - for the capital improvement and modernization of the Austrian paper industry.

Domestic consumption of paper has not yet reached full peace-time levels, which in 1938 amounted to 38 kilos per capita. In 1948, per capita consumption was 24.5 kilos and in 1949 approximately 30 kilos. In 1950 the figure is expected to increase to about 33 kilos. France, by comparison, now consumes 26.6 kilos per capita, Denmark 42.2 kilos, Switzerland 43.5 kilos, Great Britain 45.2 kilos, Sweden 70.3 and the United States more than any European country, namely 160 kilos per

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capita per year. One of the reasons for the high figure of consumption in the U.S. is due to the extensive requirements of the packing industry.

AUSTRIA EXPANDS ELECTRIFICATION TO CUT COAL IMPORTS. Austrian economic planners are making every conceivable effort to exploit the country's rich supply of water power for the production of electric energy in order to reduce drastically the import of coal for the production of thermal power, inasmuch as coal imports represent a heavy drain on Austria's limited supply of foreign exchange and on her balance of trade.

To achieve this end, 800 million schillings were appropriated in 1949 for construction work on hydroelectric plants. Of this sum 500 million schillings came from ERP counterpart funds. During the past winter the power plants of Simmering (Vienna), Enns (Upper Austria), Kaprun (Salzburg) and Linz (Upper Austria) have raised their capacity to such an extent that, for the first time since the end of the war, no electric power restrictions had to be imposed, although electricity consumption on the part of industry increased considerably as a result of the country's improved economy.

80% OF AUSTRIAN RAIL NETWORK TO BE ELECTRIFIED. Eighty percent of the Austrian railroad network will be electrified under a twelve-year plan established by the Austrian Federal Railroad Administration. The realization of this plan will result in yearly coal savings of 1,3 million tons, an amount equivalent to 20 million dollars' worth of foreign exchange. The required power of 350 million kilowatt-hours (present capacity amounts to 230 million kilowatt-hours) will be obtained from new power stations to be constructed during the next few years, as well as from the 8 stations already in operation. Altogether about 2,000 more kilometers of rail line remain to be electrified. Present work is being concentrated on the Linz-Vienna stretch of the western rail system; this section is expected to be completed in 1952.

AUSTRIAN SALT MINES PRODUCE 76,000 TONS IN 1949. Austria's salt mines, which are operated as a state monopoly, produced 76,000 tons of salt in 1949. Of this output 74,000 tons went into the domestic market, in the form of common table salt, cattle salt and industrial salt.

Salt exports in 1950 will be considerably larger than in 1949 since agreements with Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia have already been signed for the export of 15,000 tons.

The Austrian salt mines are located at Hallstadt (Upper Austria), Bad Ischl (Upper Austria), Altaussee (Styria), Hallein (Salzburg) and in the Halltal (Tyrol). Some of these mines have been worked since about 400 B.C.

NEW ADDRESS OF CENTRAL ERP AGENCY IN VIENNA. On February 24, Section 1 (Central Section), Section 2 (Economic Section) and Section 3 (Planning Section) of the Austrian Central ERP Agency moved into a new building where its new address is as follows:

Bundeskanzleramt, Zentralbuero fuer ERP-Angelegenheiten,

Wien I., Hohenstaufengasse 3,

(Cable address: ERPZENTRALBUERO WIEN). Section 4 (Supply Section) and Section 5 (Final Procedures) will also move to the same address at an early date.

PLAN FOR LOW PRICED MEAT SUPPLY NOW IN FORCE. New regulations governing the supply of meat went into effect on February 12, following a decision by the Austrian Council of Ministers. The new measures were prompted by domestic supplies of 140,000 tons of beef, veal and pork and 12,000 tons of imported meat available for the year of 1950. Every Austrian meat producer is required to deliver 50% of the slaughtered animals at the officially controlled price; the other 50% remain at his disposal for sale in the open market. Official meat and sausage prices have been considerably reduced. Because of the favorable meat supply, rationing and price controls have been lifted from horses and sheep. The compulsory delivery of bacon and lard has also been discontinued.

SHARP DROP IN VIENNA FOOD PRICES. Vienna food prices for meat, poultry, butter, eggs and liquor have declined considerably since Christmas. Smoked meat dropped from 35 schillings (about \$1.70) to 25 schillings (ab. \$1.25) per kilo. Eggs were reduced from 2 schillings per egg (ab. \$0.10) to 80 groschen (\$0.04). Butter, which used to be 30 schillings a kilo (ab. \$1.50), is now 20 schillings a kilo (ab. \$1.00).

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Liquor prices were reduced twice during the past year and are 20% lower today than a year ago. The price of special wines dropped 8 - 10 schillings and these now retail at about 10 schillings per bottle (ab. \$0.50).

2,300 EXHIBITORS AT THE VIENNA SPRING FAIR. 2,300 domestic and foreign firms will offer their products for sale at the Vienna Spring Fair to be held between March 12 and 19. About 600 applications had to be rejected because of the lack of display facilities.

In addition to three foreign collective exhibitions - those of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Italy - firms from 12 other countries have announced their participation. Among these are firms from the United States, France, Great Britain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Switzerland. Of special interest is the fact that for the first time since the war east and west German firms will also participate.

EXTENSIVE SOCIAL WELFARE PROVISIONS TO OFFSET LOW STANDARD OF LIVING IN AUSTRIA. One billion six hundred million schillings - or 17% of total federal expenditures - have been earmarked for social welfare services in 1950, according to an announcement by Karl Maisel, (Socialist), Minister of Social Welfare, during the recent budget debate in the Austrian Parliament. Deputy Hillegast (Socialist Party) said that Austria undoubtedly led other countries in some social welfare legislation, inasmuch as social welfare services were especially necessary in Austria, in order to offset her extremely low standard of living. The introduction of workers' pensions and the enactment of a new law regulating unemployment insurance (social security) marked an important step forward compared to former social welfare provisions.

AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT RISES TO 10% OF TOTAL LABOR FORCE. In a letter to Chancellor Leopold Figl, the Austrian Federation of Labor requested the Austrian Chancellor to draw up an emergency program for the elimination of unemployment, which by the end of January had risen to 183,000, or 10% of the total number of employed. Although an increase in unemployment always occurs during the winter season, especially in the construction industry, agriculture and forestry, the causes for this year's rise in unemployment are said to be due to structural changes in the entire labor market. The letter urged the Federal Chancellor to request release of ERP counterpart funds to finance public housing projects and thus counteract unemployment.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE VIENNA STREETCAR ADMINISTRATION. City Councilman Erich Exel, head of the Vienna Streetcar Administration, held a press conference on February 14 in reply to mounting criticism of the Vienna streetcar system.

Dr. Exel explained that the Vienna streetcar and subway systems had lost 587 cars during the war and that 40% of the cars remaining after the war were severely damaged. It should not be forgotten that the average age of existing rail cars was 30 years and that repairs were therefore required continuously. Although some 350 cars were still needed to meet current traffic requirements, nearly all lines had been reactivated, Dr. Exel stated. Last year 125 cars had been put into service and this year the number will be 150. In March and July, the rail cars bought in the United States will also be placed into service. In addition, 140 cars have been ordered from domestic firms; these will be similar in construction to the standard American cars, including a number of improvements. Each of the cars costs about 600,000 schillings (some \$30,000).

CURRENCY REGULATIONS FOR TRAVELLING EASED. Bulletin No. 38 of the Austrian National Bank, dated February 14, 1950, announced new regulations relating to "free currency limits" (Devisenfreigrenze), as well as other travel currency provisions.

In the future, foreigners entering Austria will be permitted to bring with them, without special permission, 1,000 schillings in Austrian coins and bank notes. Amounts in excess of this figure will have to be deposited with the customs authorities or sent back. Foreign currency and traveller's checks made out in schillings abroad to Austrian banks may be taken into the country irrespective of their amount. A special "currency pass" (Grenzbestaetigung) will be given to travellers at the border by customs officials, for foreign currency

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taken into Austria only in transit.

Upon departure, foreigners will be permitted to take out with them up to 1,000 schillings in coins or bank notes, as well as all travellers checks, letters of credits, hotel credit slips and other assignments for services rendered, which were made out abroad. Any amount of foreign currency may be taken out of the country, if the "currency pass" shows that an equal amount was brought in during the preceding 3 months. Stocks and bonds, however, may not be taken out of the country. In cases of transit travellers, such securities can be placed under seal by the custom authorities upon entry into the country and can be taken out again without difficulty.

GRAND OPENING OF AUSTRIAN ART EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK. The exhibition of "Art Treasures from the Vienna Collections" was opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on February 23 in the presence of an unprecedented number of 12,000 guests especially invited for the brilliant event. Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austria's Minister in Washington, took the occasion to declare that "the Vienna collection was sent to these shores as a gesture of appreciation and good will on the part of the Austrian people to the people of the United States." A special Honorary Committee has been established for the exhibition, which, in addition to the officers and trustees of the Metropolitan Museum, includes leading public figures and prominent personalities from the worlds of art and society.

"Art Treasures from the Vienna Collections" will be open daily at the Metropolitan through May 21. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. other weekdays; 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and holidays. An admission charge of 50 cents, federal tax included, is made except on Monday when admission is free. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition is for sale at 50 cents.

Following the showing at the Metropolitan, the exhibition will move to San Francisco where it will be on view at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum from July 1 through September 18. It will then go to Chicago for a fall showing at the Art Institute.

MINISTER HURDES REPORTS ON RESULTS OF AUSTRIAN ART EXHIBITIONS ABROAD. The Austrian Minister of Education, Dr. Felix Hurdes, told the Austrian Parliament that in 1948 Austrian art treasures had been exhibited in Zurich, Paris, Basel and Stockholm. An exhibition in Copenhagen, which was held from December, 1948, to March, 1949, had attracted 340,000 visitors and netted 512,609 Danish crowns, or 1,034,735 schillings. Public interest in Denmark was so pronounced that every thirteenth Dane visited the exhibition. The art exhibition in London was seen by 277,000 visitors and the display of old armor at the Tower drew 57,000 people. The net proceeds amounted to about 7,000 pounds sterling.

Net profits from all Austrian exhibitions abroad total 3,750,000 schillings, Dr. Hurdes revealed, adding that this money had been used for the purchase of restoration and photographic supplies for the museums, and the financing of a number of scholarships in France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. Two hundred thousand crowns' worth of insulin was imported from Denmark, since the drug was of vital necessity for many diabetics in Austria.

EXHIBITION OF 19TH CENTURY AUSTRIAN ART. An exhibition of unusual scope and importance will open at the Galerie St. Etienne, 46 West 57th Street, New York City, on April 1st. It will be a very interesting complement to the present Austrian show at the Metropolitan Museum, which includes paintings of up to the end of the 18th century.

Austrian art of the 19th century is practically unknown in this country; however, it played an important part in the history of European art. When Dr. Ernst Buschbeck, director of the Austrian State Gallery, came to New York to arrange the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, plans for this 19th century exhibition were discussed. Some of the greatest masterworks of this period have found their way to America, so that the exhibition at the Galerie St. Etienne can present a cross-section of Austrian art of the 19th century which will show this period at its best.

At the beginning of the 19th century stands the name of FERDINAND GEORG WALDMUELLER (1793-1865), the famous Austrian painter who was the first to paint landscapes in the open air. At the end of that century stands GUSTAV KLIMT (1860-1918), forty years ago the most discussed European artist. Between these two great names, there will be examples of most of the leading painters from the "Biedermeier" up to and in-

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cluding the artists who introduced impressionism in Austria. RUDOLF ALT (1812-1905) will be represented with views of Prague and Vienna, PETER FENDI (1796-1842) with some of his charming children scenes. ANTON ROMAKO (1834-1839) who committed suicide in 1889 because his art was considered revolutionary, will be represented by not less than seven pictures, among them the portrait of Empress Elizabeth of Austria and Admiral Tegetthoff during the battle of Lissa in 1866. F. JOSEF DANHAUSER (1805-1845) will be represented by his world famous painting, "Wine, Women and Song" and AUGUST VON PETTENKOPF (1822-1839) and JAKOB EMIL SCHINDLER (1842-1892) with their impressionistic scenes of Austrian landscapes, done toward the end of the 19th century.

The show is held under the auspices of Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austrian Minister to the United States.

PHILADELPHIA PHILATELIC EXHIBITION TO HONOR CENTENNIAL OF AUSTRIAN POSTAGE STAMP. From March 18 to April 13, the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia will organize an Austrian Centenary Stamp Exhibition, to be held under the auspices of the Austrian Philatelic Society and under the sponsorship of the Hon. Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter, Austria's Minister to the United States.

The Austrian Post Office Department has contributed for the occasion proofs of various Austrian stamps that were released between 1850 and 1950, as well as a photostatic copy of the decree of Emperor Franz Josef authorizing the issue of the first Austrian postage stamp. The exhibition will feature the largest collection of Austrian stamps ever assembled, including 3 specimens of the famous 6 kr. scarlet "Hermes" issue of 1856.

ART IN MUNICIPAL HOUSING PROJECTS. Following a suggestion by President Karl Renner, 1% of the total sum appropriated for municipal housing projects by the City of Vienna will be used for the artistic decoration of the buildings. Within the framework of this so-called "Renner-Plan" some 15 well-known Austrian painters and sculptors have been commissioned to design and execute murals, casein paintings, sgraffito and relief works.

MITROPOULOS, MENUHIN AND KARAJAN TO APPEAR AT VIENNA BACH FESTIVAL.

The final program of the Bach Festival, to be held in Vienna from June 1 to 15, has now been made public and will include:

Five orchestral concerts to be conducted by Herbert Karajan, Hermann Scherchen, Dimitri Mitropoulos, Otto Klemperer and Paul Hindemith; two solo concerts with Yehudi Menuhin; 4 matinées with Enrico Mainardi, cellist, and Denis Matthews, pianist; two organ concerts with Guenter Ramin and Marcel Dupré; the "Passion according to St. John" with the "Thomanerchor" of Leipzig, under the direction of Guenter Ramin; the "Passion according to St. Matthew", conducted by Herbert Karajan; the "Passion according to St. Luke", conducted by Ferdinand Grossmann; the B-Minor Mass under Herbert Karajan and, in St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Coronation Mass by Mozart, also conducted by Karajan. Four excursions are planned during the time of the Festival: one to the Monastery of Melk in Lower Austria; one to Eisenstadt, where Josef Haydn lived; one to the Augustinian Monastery of St. Florian, where Anton Bruckner worked for many years; and one to Baden, near Vienna. Musical events with the participation of leading artists will be presented at all of these places.

BUSY CONCERT SEASON AHEAD FOR HERBERT KARAJAN. The young and highly successful Austrian conductor Herbert Karajan was engaged for the special concert season to be held at the Scala of Milan in July 1950. He will share the conducting honors with Arturo Toscanini, Bruno Walter and Victor de Sabata. Herbert Karajan will also appear at the Venice Biennial in September. Furthermore, he has been invited to share the musical direction of the 1951 Bayreuth Festival together with Hans Knappertsbusch. In addition, he will conduct the orchestra of the Scala of Milan at the Edinburgh Festival this fall and will give a series of concerts in Paris.

EARL OF HAREWOOD IMPRESSED BY VIENNA THEATERS. The Earl of Harewood, who recently married the Viennese pianist Marion Stein, spent several days in Vienna with his wife last month. During his stay in the Austrian capital he frequently attended performances at Vienna theaters and the Opera House. After leaving the city the Earl of Harewood sent a letter to Dr. Egon Hilbert, administrative head of Vienna's state

theaters, in which he stated that he "was happy to see what Vienna's theaters are capable of". He singled out for special praise the performance of the "Meistersinger von Nuernberg" as "a notable culminating point of perfection in the work of a repertoire-ensemble".

"DEATH OF A SALESMAN" WIDELY ACCLAIMED IN VIENNA. The premiere of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" at the Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna on March 1 was received with universal acclaim by both the press and the first-night audience. The Vienna production (entitled: "Der Tod des Handlungsreisenden") was produced by Ernst Lothar, who has spent many years in the United States and was the former United States theater and music officer in Austria. His wife Adrienne Gessner played one of the two leading roles and Anton Edthofer played the part of the salesman.

Since salesmanship in the American sense is almost unknown in Austria, doubts had been expressed whether the play would get over to a Viennese audience, but the reviews of the opening night performance showed remarkable understanding of the problems raised in Mr. Miller's epic. The widespread public demand for tickets to the first performances, at a time when the theater in Austria is undergoing a general crisis, further confirmed the fact that the misgivings that preceded the opening of the play had been unjustified.

VIENNA BURGTHEATER TO GIVE GUEST PERFORMANCE IN ROME. Austria was one of the four countries invited by the Cultural Institute in Rome to participate in the Holy Year Festival performances to be given in May of this year. Thus in addition to appearances by British, French and Spanish theatrical groups, Rome will also play host to the Burgtheater. The Austrian ensemble will present Hugo von Hofmannsthal's "Grosses Welttheater" in German, directed by Raoul Aslan.

FILM OF LEHAR'S LIFE PLANNED. The well-known Austrian film producer Willi Forst is said to have reached an agreement with an American producer for filming the life story of Franz Lehar, the famous operetta composer who died in Austria last year. Most of the scenes will be filmed in both English and German, and the rights to Lehar's music have already been obtained.

FIRST EUROPEAN HUNTING SCHOOL FOUNDED IN VIENNA. Courses for applicants of hunting licenses have been established in Vienna on February 27 and immediately aroused great interest. The subjects taught include wild life, the use and care of guns and ammunition, wildlife diseases, hunting procedures and methods, dog training, game preservation, first aid, game laws, organization of hunts, etc. A practical course at a game preserve follows the completion of these theoretical courses. An advanced course for hunters preparing themselves for the professional state examinations is planned for a later date.

110,415 BABIES BORN IN AUSTRIA IN 1949. 110,415 babies were born in Austria last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Central Office of Statistics in Vienna. During the same period, 68,159 marriages were contracted and 88,260 persons died. Compared to the figures of the previous two years, these 1949 figures show a general decline in the birth rate.

26,000 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REGISTERED IN 1949/50 WINTER SEMESTER. Dr. Felix Hurdes, Austrian Minister of Education, said in a recent parliamentary debate on education, art and the state theaters that 25,954 students were registered in all of Austria's universities and institutes of higher learning during the 1949/50 winter semester. University registrations for the same period a year ago totalled 30,127 students. The number of registrations at the art academies was the same during both semesters. For the 1950 academic year, 285 full professors and 137 lecturers are expected to occupy teaching positions, a number which the Minister of Education considered wholly inadequate. In 1931, Austrian universities had 452 teaching positions to fill; today there are only 422. It was difficult to obtain qualified academic personnel, because the net salary of an unmarried university lecturer in the lowest salary category amounted to only 1,170 schillings (about \$60.00) per month. The net income of an unmarried full professor in the highest salary classification was no higher than 1,700 schillings (about \$88.00) per month.

Turning to the federal theaters (Staatsoper, Volksoper, Burg-

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theater and Akademietheater), which last year had a deficit of 26 million schillings, Dr. Hurdes pointed out that the Vienna Staatsoper (State Opera) was the leading opera ensemble in Europe today. The quality of Burgtheater performances was also much higher today than it had been in the past. The results achieved were all the more remarkable because the old Opera and Burgtheater buildings were still not usable and all stage props and requisites had to be newly acquired.

With regards to radio broadcasting, Minister Hurdes explained that current programming was still being extensively influenced by the occupation forces, through such means as mandatory instructions to broadcast certain specific programs, program controls and censorship. All protests by the Austrian Government against such interference had been of no avail.

VIENNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS FIRST PRIZE IN INTERNATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION. Helga Brandt, a 17-year old high school girl from Vienna, won the first prize at the poster competition recently sponsored in New York by the "Committee for World Friendship among Children". Her poster shows a brown-haired boy, dressed in a wide coat made of gay-colored flags, opening his arms to the rising sun.

PROFESSOR FINSTERER TELLS ABOUT RECENT VISIT TO AMERICA. Dr. Hans Finsterer, university professor and director of the surgery department of the largest Austrian hospital, recently addressed a meeting of the Austro-American Society in Vienna on the subject of surgery in the United States. The famous Austrian surgeon just returned from a visit to the United States where he received the honorary title of "Master of Surgery". He said that he had been particularly impressed by the remarkable anaesthetic methods used for operations in the United States. He also told of the new techniques adopted in the United States for difficult operations involving the thoracic cavity, which have now made possible the surgical treatment of previously almost incurable cases of cancer of the esophagus. Surgical intervention in cases of endocardiac ailments was also possible now, a development which Dr. Finsterer characterized as an important step forward in the field of heart surgery. He said that plans were being made in the United States to revive the "American Medical Association of Vienna", which was well-known before the war, in order to facilitate the work of American students at the University of Vienna.

AMBULATORIUM FOR EPILEPTICS OPENED IN VIENNA. The Vienna General Hospital opened an ambulatorium for epileptics on February 16. Medical circles estimate that there are about 50,000 epileptics in Vienna today, whose injuries date back to head wounds received during the late war. It is believed that 70% of these people could be completely cured if given proper and extensive medical treatment.

50% DECLINE IN AUSTRIAN BOOK PUBLISHING. In 1949, Austrian publishers brought out 2203 books (as compared to 3593 in 1948), with a probable 50% decrease in the number of copies printed, according to the figures released by the Austrian Association of Publishers for the past year. Judging by the titles given, only 2 of the 19 categories listed show an increase over 1948, namely that of school books (20%), which went up from 100 titles to 120, and that of medical books (8,3%), which increased from 120 to 130 titles. All other categories show a decline of up to 70% (fiction).

BRITISH OCCUPATION FORCES RELEASE HOTELS IN CARINTHIA. British Occupation Forces in Austria released 7 hotels, 2 tourist houses and 1 inn in Poertschach, at the Woerthersee, as well as 5 hotels, 2 tourist houses and several villas in Velden, at the Woerthersee, to ease housing requirements for tourists in the Carinthian lake region. The hotels and private houses were returned to their Austrian owners for their private or commercial use.

INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IN CARINTHIA. From August 10 to 13, the International Golf Tournament of Austria for women and men (non-professionals) will be held in Dellach at the Woerthersee, in Carinthia, on the course of the Carinthian Golf Club.

The traditional International Tennis Tournament will be held in Poertschach at the Woerthersee from August 20 to 27.

1. The following information was obtained from the report of the German forces in the area of the village of Velden, at the northern end of the Velden Lake region. The German forces in the area of the village of Velden, at the northern end of the Velden Lake region, reported that the following information was obtained from the report of the German forces in the area of the village of Velden, at the northern end of the Velden Lake region.

The traditional international tennis tournament will be held in Westphalia at the Westphalian Golf Club. The traditional international tennis tournament will be held in Westphalia at the Westphalian Golf Club. The traditional international tennis tournament will be held in Westphalia at the Westphalian Golf Club.

DOCUMENTARY FILM FEATURES AUSTRIAN NATIONAL SKI TEAM. A 15-minute documentary film showing the training of the Austrian National Ski Team, which did so well at the F.I.S. World Championships in Aspen, Col., was completed in January of this year and is now being shown in Austrian theaters. The film is of special interest because of its slow-motion shots which reveal the techniques of these ace skiers particularly well. The film, which is entitled "Hohe Schule am Arlberg" (Grand Mastery on the Arlberg), was sponsored by the Sports Division of the Austrian Ministry of Education and was directed by Bruno Loetsch. The film stock was supplied through the ERP program.

AUSTRIAN WOMEN SKIERS DOMINATE ASPEN WORLD SKI MEET. All world titles and all runner-up honors in the women's competitions of the F.I.S. World Championships in Aspen, Col., were won by the Austrian National Ski Team.

On February 13, Dagmar Rom, a 21-year old philosophy student from Innsbruck, Tyrol, won the women's giant slalom crown. Her teammate Trude Beiser-Jochum finished second. No less than 6 Austrians - that is to say the entire women's team - figured in the top seven places. Two days later, Dagmar Rom again edged her teammate Erika Mahringer by a tenth of a second in the women's slalom event. Dr. Anneliese Schuh-Proxauf came in fourth, Trude Beiser-Jochum was seventh, Resi Hammerer ninth and Rosemarie Gebler-Proxauf twelfth.

The third women's title - the world Alpine championship - was won for Austria by 27 year old Trude Beiser-Jochum from Lech on the Arlberg (Vorarlberg) on February 17, when she swept down the mile and three-quarter downhill course on Aspen Mountain and nosed out Erika Mahringer, the runner up. Dr. Anneliese Schuh-Proxauf placed fourth, Dagmar Rom ninth, Resi Hammerer tenth and Lydia Gstrein eleventh.

The Austrian men's team could not quite match these successes. In the giant slalom race, which was won by Zeno Colo of Italy, Austria's men skiers made a comparatively poor showing. Christl Pravda, the fastest Austrian participant, only came in twelfth. In the slalom event which was won by Georges Schneider of Switzerland, Austria's Egon Schoepf shared fifth place with two others. Christl Pravda, who achieved the day's best time in the second "Durchgang" event, lost valuable time and, thereby, his big chance, when he fell shortly before the end of the first run. The last event in Aspen was the downhill race, which was also won by Italy's Zeno Colo. Egon Schoepf of Austria placed third, Christl Pravda fifth, Edi Mall and Hans Nobler seventh and eighth, Franz Gabl and Hans Senger eleventh and twelfth.

On the basis of an unofficial team rating for all of this year's FIS World Championship events, the top placement of the Austrian team, which did not even participate in the Nordic events held at Lake Placid and Rumford, shows a comfortable first place lead over the other teams. The dominant position of Austria in international skiing was thus again reasserted.

DAGMAR ROM ADDS MORE TITLES TO HER SKI CROWN. Dagmar Rom of Innsbruck, Austria's ace woman skier and holder of several world titles won the North-American crown in Banff, Canada, on February 25. Although the downhill event was won by Janette Burr (USA), Miss Rom's score in the slalom event was so high that the combination title easily went to her. Austria's Egon Schoepf of Innsbruck and Christl Pravda of Kitzbuehel placed second and third respectively. A week later, Dagmar Rom and Egon Schoepf won the Canadian Championship titles too, which were also held at Banff.

On March 4 and 5, Hans Nogler from Lienz, Austria, defeated Zeno Colo on the occasion of the tenth annual races of the Harriman cup in Sun Valley, Idaho, in winning the combined downhill and slalom races. The women's combined title was won by Andrea Mead, USA; Austria's Lydia Gstrein, Anneliese Schuh-Proxauf and Resi Hammerer placed fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Unfortunately, Miss Mahringer and Mrs. Beiser-Jochum got hurt previously and couldn't take part in the events.

AUSTRIAN SKIER SETS 407-FOOT JUMPING RECORD. Austria's Willi Gantschnigg set an unofficial world record at the international ski jumping event in Oberstdorf, Germany, when he jumped 124 meters (407 feet) on February 28. More than 10,000 ski fans attended the event.

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